

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11620 01 OF 02 261034Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9113
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 11620

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
SUBJECT: KANEMARU'S PRESS INTERVIEW ON MEETING WITH
SECDEF

1. YOMIURI NEWSPAPER IN ITS MORNING EDITION OF JUNE 26
FRONT PAGED THE FOLLOWING REPORT FROM ITS HONOLULU
CORRESPONDENT:

"US CLARIFIES PLAN FOR SUPPORTING JAPAN IN EMERGENCY;
3 AIRCRAFT-CARRIER GROUPS AND 20 AIR UNITS; GROUND UNITS
TO ARRIVE HERE AFTER ONE MONTH; JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL
KANEMARU HEADING TOWARD RETURN HOME.

JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL KANEMARU, WHO HAS COMPLETED HIS
VISIT TO NATO AND TO THE US, ARRIVED IN HAWAII AT 6:00 PM
ON THE 23RD IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH US FORCES,
PACIFIC LEADERS. HE GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO A YOMIURI SHIM-
BUN CORRESPONDENT HERE, AND CLARIFIED HIS VIEWS ON THE
CONTENTS OF HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN
AND OTHER US LEADERS, THE RESULTS OF HIS ROUND OF VISITS,
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 11620 01 OF 02 261034Z

AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

AT THE INTERVIEW, KANEMARU EMPHASIZED THAT "THE US HAS
NO INTENTION OF SEPARATING FROM ASIA." AS EVIDENCE IN
THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THAT AT HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY
BROWN, US CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS HOLLOWAY SUBMITTED A
"PLAN FOR US MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS IN THI CASE OF AN

EMERGENCY IN JAPAN," FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS PLAN ARE BEING KEPT STRICTLY SECRET. KANEMARU ALSO REFUSED TO GIVE A DETAILED EXPLANATION. HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT "THE US WILL IMPROVE ITS CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS TO COME TO THE HELP OF JAPAN IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC." IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE US SUBMITTED A CONCRETE REINFORCEMENT PLAN CONCERNING ITS NAVY AND AIR FORCE.

IN REGARD TO THE SPECIFICS OF THE REINFORCEMENT PLAN, A SOURCE ACCOMPANYING DIRECTOR GENERAL KANEMARU EXPLAINED THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS:

(1) AS MANY AS THREE AIRCRAFT-CARRIER GROUPS FROM THE 7TH FLEET WILL BE DISPATCHED, (2) ABOUT 20 TACTICAL AIR FORCE UNITS WILL BE DISPATCHED, BUT (3) IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR GROUND COMBAT UNITS TO COME TO THE HELP OF (JAPAN) WITHINLESS THAN A MONTH. THIS SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THE PLAN IS A NEW ACTION TAKEN BY THE US IN CONSIDERATION OF THE GROWING CONCERN ABOUT "AMERICA'S SEPARATION FROM ASIA," WHICH IS SPREADING IN JAPAN.

IN THE INTERVIEW, DIRECTOR GENERAL KANEMARU ALSO SAID, "I RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US, ALTHOUGH DECIDING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 11620 01 OF 02 261034Z

ON THE PLAN FOR WITHDRAWING US GROUND FORCES FROM THE ROK, HAS NOT CHANGED ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TOWARD THE ROK. IN REGARD TO TAIWAN, ALSO, THE US IS CAUTIOUS ABOUT VARIOUS WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES' SELLING WEAPONS TO CHINA WHICH WILL POSE A THREAT TO TAIWAN. THERE WAS ALSO A DECLARATION THAT, EVEN IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA ARE NORMALIZED, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES' KEEPING ITS PROMISE TO DEFEND TAIWAN."

A PLAN FOR JOINT JAPAN-US OPERATIONS IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY IN JAPAN IS NOW BEING STUDIED BY THE JAPAN-US SUB-COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE COOPERATION. HOWEVER, NO DEFINITE EXPLANATION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHAT AMOUNT OF SUPPORT UNITS THE US CAN SEND IN AN EMERGENCY.

DURING THE 1970'S, THE US HAS REDUCED ITS MILITARY STRENGTH IN ASIA FROM THE 800,000-MEN LEVEL AT ONE TIME TO 130,000 (AS OF THE END OF LAST YEAR). THE NUMBER OF US TROOPS IN JAPAN HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF. IN EUROPE, ON THE OTHER HAND, NEARLY 300,000 SERVICEMEN HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT. THE US DEFENSE REPORT LAST

FEBRUARY ALSO SHOWED THAT IT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO EUROPE, SAYING: (1) IN AN EMERGENCY, ONE DIVISION AND 30 AIR UNITS WILL BE DISPATCHED WITHIN 10 DAYS; (2) IN 1983, FIVE YEARS HENCE, FIVE DIVISIONS AND 60 AIR UNITS WILL BE DISPATCHED TO EUROPE WITHIN 10 DAYS; AND (3) THE FLEETS IN THE PACIFIC WILL ALSO BE SENT TO DEFEND THE ATLANTIC, IF NECESSARY.

AS TO THIS, OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENSE AUTHORITIES WORRIED ABOUT THE UNITED STATES' SUPPORT ABILITY IN ASIA BECAUSE,

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 11620 02 OF 02 261038Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 11620

IF AN EMERGENCY ARISES IN EUROPE, THE MAIN MILITARY FORCE OF THE US WILL BE DEPLOYED IN EUROPE. THE GIST OF THE SUPPORT PLAN SHOWN BY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS HOLLOWAY IS TO IMPROVE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS' SUPPORT CAPABILITIES. AT PRESENT, THE 7TH FLEET HAS TWO AIRCRAFT-CARRIERS WITH ONE DEPLOYED IN THE WEST PACIFIC AND THE OTHER IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA AT ALL TIMES. THEREFORE, THESE TWO AIRCRAFT-CARRIERS CANNOT BE IMMEDIATELY CONCENTRATED TO SUPPORT JAPAN IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. IT SEEMS THAT THE NEW SUPPORT PLAN IS DESIGNED TO MAKE UP FOR THIS WEAKNESS.

THE US NAVY HAS 12 LARGE-SIZE AIRCRAFT-CARRIERS AT PRESENT, AND SIX EACH ARE ASSIGNED TO THE PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC FLEETS. THE 4TH ATOMIC-POWERED AIRCRAFT-CARRIER "CARL VINSON" IS SCHEDULED TO BE PUT IN SERVICE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS HOLLOWAY'S PRESENTATION

OF HIS PLAN IS TAKEN TO SUGGEST THAT THIS AIRCRAFT-
CARRIER WILL BE STATIONED IN THE PACIFIC."

2. COMMENT: REMARKS ON US FORCE DEPLOYMENTS ATTRIBUTED
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 11620 02 OF 02 261038Z

TO KANEMARU MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC THAN
ANTICIPATED WHEN PRESS GUIDANCE DISCUSSED WITH SECDEF, BUT
SEEM WITHIN BOUNDS OF SECDEF'S SUGGESTION THAT DEFMIN
SHOULD FEEL FREE TO REMARK ON US ASSURANCES CONCERNING
CONTINUATION OF A STRONG MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC
(SECDEF 222027Z JUNE 78 NOTAL). THEY ARE ALSO CONSISTENT
WITH PARAMETERS OF POSTURE STATEMENT, STATED US INTENTION
TO MAINTAIN SIX CARRIERS IN PACIFIC, AND US DEMONSTRATED
ABILITY RAPIDLY TO DISPATCH TACTICAL AIRCRAFT IN TIMES
OF EMERGENCY. RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT IF ANY PRESS
INQUIRIES ARE MADE, RESPONSES AVOID ANY COMMENT THAT
COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A CONTRADICTION OR DENIAL.
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